

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

**Congress of the United States**

**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

Majority (202) 225-6051  
Minority (202) 225-6074

July 12, 2007

The Honorable John Murtha  
Chairman  
The Hon. C. W. Bill Young  
Ranking Republican  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense  
Room H149, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

To the Chairman and Ranking Member:

As your Subcommittee continues work on the Fiscal Year 2008 Appropriations Bill, I write to respectfully request your support for substantially increased funding for the Defense Security Service (DSS), specifically the personnel security function involving security clearances for Defense and contractor personnel. According to DSS budget justification documents, \$414,400,000.00 is needed to meet critical operational and program improvement needs next year.

DSS remains seriously underfunded. It appears the Department's recent \$25 million reprogramming request for DSS was pared back to \$15 million. That means DSS will once again be required to limit, or suspend, processing of contractor clearances in order to avoid a violation of the Deficiency Act. As you may know, last year at this time DSS stopped accepting contractor clearance requests altogether for a substantial period, seriously disrupting contract performance schedules and increasing costs.

The Pentagon agency responsible for critical security functions continues to teeter on the brink of insolvency and remains dependent on inter-departmental transfers and annual reprogramming actions just to meet steady-state demand for clearances. Any spike in applications would both surprise and paralyze DSS because the Department still has no reliable system to anticipate, much less meet, contractor clearance requirements. In last year's Appropriations Act, you specifically tasked DoD "to resolve the budgetary problems facing DSS" and report "on plans to more accurately build future DSS budget submissions."<sup>1</sup> That report was due December 29, 2006. To my knowledge, it has not been submitted.

---

<sup>1</sup> Conference Report to accompany H.R. 5631, An Act Making Appropriations for the Department of Defense for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2007. House Report 109-276.

*Hon. John Murtha  
Hon. C. W. Bill Young  
July 12, 2007  
Page 2 of 2*

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. Your continued support and oversight of the DSS budget are both needed and appreciated. If you have any questions or should you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or [REDACTED] of my Committee staff at x5-5074.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tom Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" and last name "Davis" clearly distinguishable.

Tom Davis  
Ranking Republican Member  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform